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SAPC-26581 ✓

Copy 1 of 5

18 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comptroller's Signature on AQUATONE Contracts

1. Some days ago you expressed the view that AQUATONE contracts requiring the Director's signature should, before presentation to him, carry the signature of the Agency Comptroller or of an individual designated by the Comptroller but not a member of the AQUATONE Staff. At present contract documents are signed by the Project Comptroller, the Project Contracting Officer, a representative of the General Counsel, and myself.


2. This matter was taken up with the Agency Comptroller who has expressed his views in a memorandum to me, copy of which is attached.

3. I would especially emphasize the point referred to by the Comptroller in paragraph 3 of his memorandum. I feel that an argument could be made that the documents in question carry the signature of the Agency's Director of Logistics in place of the Project Contracting Officer and that on other cases recommended actions might be required to have the concurrence of the Chiefs of other Agency components. In practice, security and compartmentation have been served by the delegation of this function to representatives of the several offices assigned to the Project. This present pattern has also permitted much faster action than would otherwise have been the case. In the specific area of finance, I am confident that the Project Comptroller's certification is in all cases completely supportable by appropriate documentation and is most conservatively given. A review of the records by the Agency Auditor-in-Chief confirmed this belief.

4. I recommend strongly against any change in the present arrangements.

Attachment:

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Development

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